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Status of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report, submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/229, provides an overview of the status of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It contains a list of signatories, ratifications or accessions to the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto, information on the work of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and reporting on the ongoing efforts of Governments towards the ratification and implementation of the Convention. The report also presents an overview of the progress made by the entities of the United Nations system towards implementation of the Convention and describes relevant activities by non-governmental organizations.

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 66/229, the General Assembly requested that the Secretary-General submit to it, at its sixty-seventh session, a report on the status of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto.

II. Status of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto

2. Since the previous report on the status of the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto (A/66/121), and as at 1 August 2012, there have been an additional 13 ratifications, 4 accessions and 4 signatories to the Convention. There have also been an additional 5 ratifications and 5 accessions to the Optional Protocol, with no new signatories.

3. At the date of submission of the present report, there were a total of 119 States parties and 153 signatories to the Convention since its opening for signature on 30 March 2007. There were 71 States parties and 90 signatories to the Optional Protocol. The list of signatories and ratifications or accessions is contained in the annex to the present report.[1]

4. Among the 119 States parties to the Convention, 33 are from the African Group, 28 from the Asian Group, 18 from the Eastern European Group, 22 from the Latin American and Caribbean Group and 17 from the Western European and Others Group. The European Union, as a regional integration organization, is also a State party to the Convention.

5. During the reporting period, Member States continued to harmonize national laws, enact new legislation and create national focal points in order to promote the ratification of or accession to the Convention or in support of its implementation.

6. From its inception, the Convention has been envisaged as an instrument both for the promotion of human rights and for the realization of the goal of an inclusive society and an inclusive development model. In addition, Member States may be guided by the Convention in their efforts to implement the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. In this regard, the General Assembly, in its resolution 66/124, decided to hold a one-day high-level meeting of the General Assembly on disability and development on 23 September 2013 to promote concerted action towards a disability-inclusive post-2015 development framework. The United Nations system is strengthening its efforts in the area of disability-inclusive policy and programming at all levels and encouraging multi-stakeholder partnerships to strengthen the mainstreaming of disability and the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of society and development.

[1] The figures include the ratification of the Convention and the Optional Protocol by the European Union.

III. Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

7. The fourth session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was held at United Nations Headquarters from 7 to 9 September 2011 on the theme: "Enabling development, realizing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities". Two round tables were held on "Realizing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities through international cooperation", and "Ensuring effective and full participation in political and public life". There was also an informal meeting entitled "Realizing the right to work and employment".[2]

8. Throughout the fourth session, there was an ongoing interactive dialogue on United Nations support for the implementation of the Convention. The escalating level of international participation in the Conference has made it the largest, most diverse global forum on the rights of persons with disabilities. Over 40 side events were held during the two-and-a-half days of the Conference.

9. At the time of submission of the present report, preparations are under way for the fifth session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention, to be held at United Nations Headquarters from 12 to 14 September 2012, on the theme, "Making the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities count for women and children". The session will include discussions on children with disabilities, technology and accessibility, and women with disabilities. The session will also include an interactive dialogue on the implementation of the Convention by the entities of the United Nations system. During the session, elections will be conducted for nine members of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to replace those whose terms are due to expire on 31 December 2012.

IV. Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

10. Since the submission of the previous report in 2011, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has held its sixth (19-23 September 2011) and seventh (16-20 April 2012) sessions.

11. During its sixth session, the Committee adopted concluding observations on Spain (CRPD/C/ESP/CO/1) and Peru (CRPD/C/PER/CO/1). During its seventh session, the Committee adopted lists of issues on the initial reports of Argentina, China and Hungary. It also presented, for the first time, its views on an individual communication submitted under the Optional Protocol to the Convention, and endorsed the outcome document of the Dublin II Meeting on Strengthening the United Nations Human Rights Treaty Body System.[3]

12. During its sixty-sixth session, by its resolution 66/229, the General Assembly authorized an additional week of meeting time per year for the work of the Committee.

13. Information on the work of the Committee is available on the website of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in

[2] See CRPD/CSP/2011/2.

[3] See http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/HRTD/docs/DublinII_Outcome_Document.pdf.

2011 (www.ohchr.org), including a fact sheet on the procedure for submitting communications to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities under the Optional Protocol to the Convention and guidelines for submission of communications to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities under the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

V. Activities undertaken in support of the Convention

14. As part of the preparations for the present report, Member States were requested to provide information concerning their status with regard to the signing, ratification and implementation of the Convention and its Optional Protocol. During the reporting period, the Secretariat received 17 submissions from Governments,[4] as well as 18 from agencies[5] and 4 from civil society organizations.[6] The present section may be read in conjunction with the information contained in the previous report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (A/66/121).

A. Member States

1. Progress towards ratification

15. A number of signatories to the Convention reported having taken steps towards ratification:

(a) In December 2009, Japan established the Ministerial Board for Disability Policy Reform. In August 2011, the Board promulgated the revised Basic Act for Persons with Disabilities, with a view to promoting ratification of the Convention;

(b) In December 2010, Switzerland initiated formal consultations on accession to the Convention and reported that it would forward the outcome of the consultation process, which concluded in April 2011, to Parliament for a formal decision.

[4] Submissions were received from the following Member States: Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Mexico, Mozambique, Paraguay, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Switzerland, Togo and Uruguay. A submission was also received from the Cook Islands, which is a non-member State of the United Nations, although a member State of a number of United Nations specialized agencies.

[5] The Department of Economic and Social Affairs, OHCHR, the United Nations Mine Action Service, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Bank and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

[6] Disabled People's International, International Disability Alliance, International Disability and Development Consortium and Leonard Cheshire Disability.

2. Harmonization of domestic legislation, policies and monitoring the implementation

16. Several States parties to the Convention reported progress in the harmonization of domestic legislation in compliance with the Convention:

(a) Brazil established its National Human Rights Office under the Office of the President to monitor the implementation of the Convention;

(b) Burkina Faso adopted a law on the protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities;

(c) Canada noted that all jurisdictions have strong equality and non-discrimination protection for persons with disabilities, which is embodied in section 15 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and in federal, provincial and territorial human rights legislation;

(d) Mexico adopted a general law in May 2011 on the social inclusion of persons with disabilities, which reaffirmed the human rights of persons with disabilities in all aspects of life and development. Mexico has also launched a national mechanism, with budget allocations, for implementing and monitoring national policies and action plans for the inclusion of persons with disabilities;

(e) Paraguay adopted a law requiring public institutions to reserve at least 5 per cent of staff positions for persons with disabilities. Paraguay is also currently working on the creation of a national secretariat for the human rights of persons with disabilities;

(f) Spain approved a regulation regarding basic conditions for the participation of persons with disabilities in political and electoral processes;

(g) Uruguay adopted a law for the comprehensive protection of persons with disabilities. Under its terms, an honorary national commission on disability will be established for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of national policies relating to persons with disabilities. Uruguay has also established a consultative council on disability, which will provide a mechanism ensuring that organizations of persons with disabilities may take part in relevant processes.

3. National policies for implementation of the Convention

17. Several States reported on progress in developing and strengthening both national policy frameworks for the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities as well as practices for implementing and monitoring the Convention:

(a) Brazil launched a national plan for the rights of persons with disabilities, "Living without limits", in November 2011. The plan is organized around four themes: education, health, social inclusion and accessibility;

(b) The Cook Islands National Disability Council was established in partnership with the Ministry of Internal Affairs to improve the coordination of services for persons with disabilities. The Government specifically addressed the issues faced by women and girls with disabilities in its National Gender Policy 2011. The workplan of the Cook Islands National Council of Women also considers the inclusion of women with disabilities in its organizational activities;

(c) The Ministry of Labour and Social Policies of Italy, in cooperation with the National Statistics Institute, launched a website to make data on persons with

disabilities available to the general public. In December 2011, the General Directorate for Social Inclusion and Social Policies of the Ministry signed an agreement with the National Statistics Institute in compliance with article 31 of the Convention;

(d) Indonesia is currently implementing its national plan of action on persons with disabilities 2004-2013, which is part of its commitment to realize the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action Towards an Inclusive, Barrier-Free and Rights-Based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific;

(e) Latvia reported that it is preparing a strategic document, "Basic principles of implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for 2013-2019", in close collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities;

(f) Mexico launched a national programme in April 2012 outlining a series of strategies to prevent and eliminate discrimination. The programme will promote the progressive removal of barriers preventing persons with disabilities from accessing Federal buildings, and will seek to foster a culture of respect for the human rights of persons with disabilities. Mexico has also launched guidelines for accessible websites, particularly directed at Federal employees;

(g) Mozambique is currently developing its second national action plan for disability 2012-2019, which is informed by various national and international instruments and inputs from all stakeholders, including organizations of persons with disabilities, faith-based organizations and the private sector. A range of awareness-raising campaigns, vocational and education training programmes have also been implemented;

(h) Qatar launched its national development strategy (2011-2016), which included social protection for persons with disabilities. The national population policy, introduced in 2010, focused on the empowerment of persons with disabilities through anti-discrimination measures and equal-employment opportunities. Qatar also conducted several information and communications technology initiatives to promote both the inclusion of persons with disabilities and the implementation of the Convention;

(i) The Republic of Korea included women with disabilities in its five-year policy development plan for persons with disabilities and in its basic plan for women's policy. It also introduced a disability pension system, improved its disability registration and assessment system, expanded housing services for persons with disabilities and took additional measures for persons with disabilities relating to economic opportunities, the right to education and culture and web accessibility;

(j) Spain adopted a strategy (2012-2020) to advance universal accessibility. A principal objective of the strategy is to ensure access by persons with disabilities to transport, information technologies, communication systems and other services, on an equal basis with the general population;

(k) Togo ratified the Convention in March 2011. The Government of Togo has adopted a strategy on poverty reduction that takes into account the needs of persons with disabilities in relation to health, employment and education. It has also adopted a plan on education that includes accessibility measures for children with disabilities;

(l) Uruguay is currently developing a national plan on equalization of opportunities and rights for persons with disabilities that will facilitate access to health, education, work and housing for persons with disabilities.

B. United Nations system

18. Over the reporting period, the United Nations system continued to promote and support Member States in the ratification and implementation of the Convention through awareness-raising, the provision of capacity-building and technical cooperation.

19. United Nations entities have endeavoured to include disability within their respective areas of work. Several agencies have developed global strategies on disability and inclusive development and have disseminated guiding principles in relation to persons with disabilities for their workplace; others have established focal points and created special posts focusing on disability issues.

20. The United Nations system has strengthened collaborations and partnerships between its entities and with other stakeholders to promote the Convention and its implementation. Since the last report of the Secretary-General (A/66/121), the Inter-Agency Support Group on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has developed a roll-out strategy for the United Nations Development Group guidance note on including the rights of persons with disabilities in United Nations programming at the country level. In accordance with the strategy, the Support Group will continue to develop training tools and other relevant materials, and to support use of the guidance note as a critical tool for advancing the rights of persons with disabilities in the work of United Nations country teams.

1. Promoting accessibility: human resources, information and physical facilities

21. Accessibility is one of the general principles essential for the successful implementation of the Convention. The General Assembly has recognized accessibility as a priority issue, and has called repeatedly for an accessible United Nations. In response, the Secretariat has sought to ensure the participation of persons with disabilities in the work of the United Nations. In 2010, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in conjunction with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management and OHCHR, established the United Nations Interdepartmental Task Force on Accessibility to develop a comprehensive policy on accessibility for the Secretariat. The policy would seek to enable the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in all aspects of the work of the United Nations by promoting inclusive and accessible built environments, facilities, human resources, conferences and services on all United Nations premises.

22. The Interdepartmental Task Force on Accessibility has reviewed the policies and practices of other United Nations organizations and entities to identify possible solutions, as well as obstacles and gaps that might hinder the full and equal participation of persons with disabilities in the work of the Organization. The Task Force has identified, as a possible solution, the provision of closed captioning and sign language interpretation for United Nations meetings and the delivery of official United Nations documentation in an accessible format through the use of appropriate information, communications, voice-recognition and publishing technologies. Closed captioning in English and Portuguese and in Brazilian sign language were made

available at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio in June 2012, where, in addition, documents for the conference were made accessible on screen readers and in Braille.

23. The Interdepartmental Task Force has also identified the urgent need for a fund to support the accessibility needs of persons with disabilities in their workplace. Such a fund could be used, for example, to provide accessible communications technologies, such as hearing devices and screen readers, or for the retrofitting of buildings. Accessibility funds have already been established by several organizations of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Bank.

24. In April 2012, the Human Rights Council endorsed the report of the task force on secretariat services of the United Nations Office at Geneva on enhancing the accessibility of the Council and its mechanisms.[7] The report included a set of recommendations on accessibility and information technology for persons with disabilities, and suggested measures to be taken by relevant actors at the Geneva office.

25. A number of United Nations agencies have provided information on measures taken to improve the accessibility of their physical facilities. Some agencies have retrofitted their premises and have ensured that the design phase of new construction includes accessibility features in conformity with host-country regulations. Other United Nations entities reported a wide range of efforts to advance accessibility by providing or developing accessibility guidelines, preparing information material in accessible format and promoting accessible information and communications technology.

26. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) worked with the Barbados Council for the Disabled to provide accessible information and services to persons with disabilities and to increase awareness of sexual and reproductive health issues and rights. The programme was designed to sensitize parents, health workers, social workers, peer educators and guidance counsellors to the human and reproductive rights of adolescents with disabilities by equipping them with accessible information, educational and communications material.

27. In 2011, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) adopted a policy on persons with disabilities in the FAO workplace, applicable to the recruitment process for persons with disabilities as well as their employment with FAO. The policy has provided relevant parameters, including reasonable accommodation. Since 2010, FAO has also taken measures to advance the accessibility of its physical facilities, including the upgrading of lifts and the construction of accessible restroom facilities.

28. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is revising its existing guidelines on the implementation of international Standards and Recommended Practices, as contained in annex 9 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation entitled "Facilitation, relating to persons with disabilities". The recommended practices set out the measures that States and various stakeholders, including airports, aircraft operators, ground-handling operators and travel agents, should take to assist persons with disabilities in the course of their travel itinerary. The material,

[7] A/HRC/DEC/19/119.

which is intended to assist the civil aviation community in the day-to-day application of recommended practices, is to be published in early 2013.

29. In 2011, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) prepared a global report on *ICTs in Education for Persons with Disabilities*. The report provided an overview and critical assessment of the use of information and communications technology in education for persons with disabilities, both in policy and practice, based on five regional studies, and highlighted case studies and best practices from these studies.

30. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has launched a dedicated website (www.visionip.org) as a platform for attracting support, exchanging views and disseminating information in the field of intellectual property aimed at facilitating access for the blind, visually impaired and other reading-impaired persons to information and cultural content. WIPO has developed a number of activities to foster a practical understanding of the ways in which the intellectual property system can best meet the needs of the visually impaired by improving timely access to copyright-protected content.

31. In October 2011, at its nineteenth session, the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization adopted a resolution on accessible tourism, in which it requested its secretariat to prepare accessibility guidelines for various areas of the tourism industry.

2. Awareness-raising

32. The International Day of Persons with Disabilities, which is commemorated annually both at United Nations Headquarters and around the world, promotes a better understanding of disability issues, helps mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities and advances awareness of and support for the Convention. The annual event at Headquarters includes the United Nations Enable film festival, where short films from around the world raise awareness of disability issues and promote the fuller, more effective participation of persons with disabilities in society.

33. By its resolution 66/149, the General Assembly declared 21 March World Down Syndrome Day, beginning in 2012, with a view to promoting the well-being and inclusion of persons with Down syndrome in society and development and raising awareness about the condition. On 21 March 2012, a multi-stakeholder event was held at Headquarters, organized by Down Syndrome International in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and other stakeholders.

34. In conjunction with the eleventh session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, held at Headquarters from 7 to 18 May 2012, an interactive panel discussion was held on the theme "Indigenous persons with disabilities: overcoming challenges to achieving rights and inclusion in development". The event was organized by Disability Rights Fund, in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and sponsored by the Government of Australia.

35. OHCHR organized the third interactive debate on the rights of persons with disabilities in March 2011 to raise awareness of the significant contribution of international cooperative efforts to the realization of the objectives of the Convention. The debate also highlighted challenges and lessons learned regarding international cooperation within the context of the Convention, inter alia, in relation

to mainstreaming the rights of persons with disabilities into the field of development cooperation and humanitarian action.

36. The Economic Commission for Africa publication, *African Youth Report 2011: Addressing the youth education and employment nexus in the new global economy*, recognized disability as one of the least visible, yet most pertinent, factors in the educational marginalization of children and youth. The report was a catalyst for the conference "African Youth with Disabilities: Raising our Voices for Inclusion", organized by African youth groups in Nairobi in 2011.

37. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, at its sixty-eighth session in 2012, proclaimed the period from 2013 to 2022 the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities (Commission resolution 68/7). In addition, the Commission campaign to "Make the Right Real!", aimed at accelerating the ratification and implementation of the Convention in the Asia and the Pacific region, has helped initiate national campaigns in Bangladesh, India, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines and the Republic of Korea. The campaigns have also led to the formation of two subregional organizations of persons with disabilities, the South Asian Disability Forum and the Central Asian Disability Forum.

38. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has launched a Diversity Awards initiative to promote diversity and inclusive employment in the workplace. Each prize, for which disability-inclusiveness is considered one of the selection criteria, comes with a certificate and a monetary award to support further diversity initiatives. Winning submissions are posted on the UNDP intranet as models for other UNDP offices to follow.

39. The UNESCO publication, *Implementing the Right to Education: A compendium of practical examples*, analysed input from Member States on the implementation of the Convention and provided recommendations to address discrimination in education, including the implementation of the right to education for persons with disabilities. Practical examples included legislative and administrative measures and policies and programmes aimed at ensuring the inclusion in education of persons with disabilities. The results of a new consultation on the implementation of those instruments, launched in September 2011, will be published by the end of 2013.

3. Capacity-building

40. In response to the requests of Member States, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs has continued to provide technical advice and assistance regarding the design of strategies, policies and programmes for disability-inclusive development. In November 2010, the Department and OHCHR collaborated with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in conducting a capacity-development workshop in Trinidad and Tobago. In September 2011, at the request of the UNDP country office in Croatia, the Department and OHCHR jointly conducted a workshop on the implementation of the Convention for western Balkan countries. In cooperation with OHCHR and the Economic Commission for Africa, the Department is currently implementing a project, in coordination with the Governments of with Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa and Zambia, to support the capacity development of Governments and disabled people's organizations to promote implementation of the Convention.

41. In November 2010, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean held a subregional meeting, including a training workshop, on the implementation of the Convention. The training provided information and tools regarding the mainstreaming of the disability issue at the national level through accessibility audits and improving the collection of disability data and statistics.[8]

42. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia has initiated a project to collect data and statistics on disability, including information on disability policies, legislation, programmes and services, and to build national capacity to collect, analyse and disseminate such data. The Commission has established, in collaboration with Member States, a network of national focal points to collect and compile national data and information on persons with disabilities.

43. The United Nations Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is a new collaborative effort established by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, ILO, OHCHR, UNDP, UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO). In December 2011, the Disability Partnership launched a multi-donor trust fund to mobilize resources for its global efforts to promote and implement the Convention. In May 2012, the first Disability Partnership Fund call for proposals was issued to 37 United Nations country teams.

44. OHCHR has continued to provide support to States parties to the Convention in reviewing national legislation and policies on disability to ensure their consistency with the Convention and its Optional Protocol. For example, the human rights component of the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) has, in collaboration with OHCHR, provided technical support to the Government of Sierra Leone in drafting the Persons with Disability Act, enacted in March 2011. OHCHR also worked with the Government of the Republic of Moldova in developing a draft law on the social inclusion of persons with disabilities.

45. The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) has conducted initiatives in several countries in support of the implementation of the Convention. In 2011, the National Mine Action Centre in the Sudan conducted an advocacy programme on the Convention, promoting a better understanding of the national law for the disabled. The Centre also supported the establishment of the National Council for Disabled Persons to monitor and report on the implementation of the Convention.

46. In Albania, 140 participants from Government and civil society organizations were trained, with support from UNFPA, on disability rights and approaches to mainstreaming disability in national development policies and programmes.

47. In 2011, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) launched a global training series in Bangladesh, India and Uganda to raise awareness of disability issues and promote inclusion of disability in national programmes. Training workshops brought together UNHCR and partner staff, refugees with disabilities and national disabled persons' organizations to exchange information and develop joint action plans to increase access to protection and services. UNHCR is also developing an e-learning course on diversity, which includes disabilities, to be available to all UNHCR staff. It has also conducted disability-inclusion workshops in several countries in 2011 and 2012.

[8] See http://www.eclac.org/publicaciones.

48. During the reporting period, UNICEF provided capacity-building training on the Convention and other international human rights instruments for Government officials in Oman. The training focused specifically on the development of a national plan of action on persons with disabilities. In January 2011, UNICEF held an initial orientation on the rights of persons with disabilities at its headquarters in order to sensitize its staff to the critical importance of disability rights, both for the implementation of the Convention and for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. A web-based staff-orientation module on disability, which is currently being finalized, will be rolled out to all UNICEF staff later in 2012.

49. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) prepared a draft UNAIDS Strategy for integrating disability into country-level HIV programmes, providing strategic approaches to addressing the policy and programmatic needs of people living with HIV who also have disabilities.

50. In November 2011, UNESCO held a subregional workshop in Antigua and Barbuda to promote inclusive education. The participants in the workshop were mainly curriculum planners, inclusive education experts and other experts from UNESCO member States. In close cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the Higher Council for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities of Jordan, UNESCO implemented a project to improve the quality of education of children with hearing disabilities and to raise awareness of their concerns.

51. In June 2011, WHO launched a "QualityRights Tool Kit" to assess and improve the quality of care and protect the human rights of persons with mental health and disabilities living in social-care facilities. Its aim was to provide Member States with information on quality and human rights standards in care facilities that must be respected, protected and fulfilled.[9]

52. The World Bank is preparing a study on disability and employment in the Latin American and Caribbean region. In follow-up to the first *World Report on Disability 2011*, prepared jointly by the World Bank and WHO, the two entities are developing a model disability survey aimed at improving disability measurement and data collection. In addition, the World Bank held an inaugural five-day course on disability and development for staff members and technical counterparts working in national ministries at its headquarters.

C. Civil society organizations

53. Civil society organizations, especially organizations of persons with disabilities, which played an active role in the drafting and negotiation processes for the Convention, continue to be instrumental in its ratification and implementation at the international, regional and grass-roots levels. International disability organizations often have networks of members and membership organizations around the world that work to raise awareness about disability issues and the Convention. Such networks are also actively involved in monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Convention.

54. In conjunction with the fourth session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention in September 2011, a civil society forum was organized by the

[9] See http://www.who.int/mental_health/policy/quality_rights/en/index.html.

International Disability Alliance in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The Alliance also held a seminar in Geneva in November 2011, with a view to establishing implementation guidelines on the Convention. The Alliance is currently leading a capacity-development project focused on training leaders and trainers from organizations of persons with disabilities on the implementation of the Convention.

55. The Global Initiative for Inclusive Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), in cooperation with Disabled People's International, prepared the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: 2010 ICT Accessibility Progress Report*. The report presents the progress made by countries in promoting ICT accessibility in alignment with the articles of the Convention.

56. In March 2012, the United Kingdom-based organization Leonard Cheshire Disability, in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, held a conference entitled "Disability-Inclusive Millennium Development Goals and Aid Effectiveness", using the Convention as a guiding principle. The conference which was held in Bangkok, drew 350 delegates from 65 countries, including representatives of Governments, United Nations system organizations, academia, non-governmental organizations and disabled people's organizations, who discussed options to ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities in international development initiatives. The conference concluded with a statement calling upon Governments to consult with persons with disabilities to develop new and inclusive frameworks for the post-2015 development agenda.

57. The Pan-African Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry deliberated the importance of the Convention and mental health reform in Africa during its international congress held in Cape Town, South Africa, in October 2011. The congress culminated in the Cape Town Declaration, which was presented at the second summit of the Movement for Global Mental Health and at the World Mental Health Congress of the World Federation for Mental Health, both held in Cape Town in 2011.

D. Multi-stakeholder partnerships

58. The Global Partnership for Disability and Development held its Third Forum on Disability and Development and its membership meeting in Buenos Aires in September 2011. Members and partners focused on options for action towards the social and economic inclusion of people with disabilities, within the framework of article 32 of the Convention. Development partners discussed challenges in disability-inclusive development and explored options towards the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals.

59. The AIDS and Disability Partners Forum, organized by UNAIDS in collaboration with the Global Partnership for Disability and Development, the Governments of Canada and the United States of America and United Nations entities, including the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, was held in conjunction with the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on AIDS, which was held in New York from 8 to 10 June 2011. Participants in the Forum highlighted the importance of the Convention, which provides a framework for the integration of AIDS programming for persons with disabilities. In the outcome document of the High-level Meeting, the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS (resolution 65/277),

Member States specifically called for the adoption of the Convention, recognized the need to take into account the rights of persons with disabilities, noted with concern that programmes in prevention, treatment, care and support have been either inadequately targeted or made inaccessible to persons with disabilities and committed themselves to ensuring that financial resources for prevention are targeted to the specific needs of persons with disabilities.

Annex

List of signatories, ratifications or accessions to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto, as of 1 August 2012

A. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Participant	*Signature*	*Ratification or accession*
Albania	22 December 2009	
Algeria	30 March 2007	4 December 2009
Andorra	27 April 2007	
Antigua and Barbuda	30 March 2007	
Argentina	30 March 2007	2 September 2008
Armenia	30 March 2007	22 September 2010
Australia	30 March 2007	17 July 2008
Austria	30 March 2007	26 September 2008
Azerbaijan	9 January 2008	28 January 2009
Bahrain	25 June 2007	22 September 2011
Bangladesh	9 May 2007	30 November 2007
Barbados	19 July 2007	
Belgium	30 March 2007	2 July 2009
Belize	9 May 2011	2 June 2011
Benin	8 February 2008	5 July 2012
Bhutan	21 September 2010	
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	13 August 2007	16 November 2009
Bosnia and Herzegovina	29 July 2009	12 March 2010
Brazil	30 March 2007	1 August 2008
Brunei Darussalam	18 December 2007	
Bulgaria	27 September 2007	22 March 2012
Burkina Faso	23 May 2007	23 July 2009
Burundi	26 April 2007	
Cambodia	1 October 2007	

Participant	*Signature*	*Ratification or accession*
Cameroon	1 October 2008	
Canada	30 March 2007	11 March 2010
Cape Verde	30 March 2007	10 October 2011
Central African Republic	9 May 2007	
Chile	30 March 2007	29 July 2008
China	30 March 2007	1 August 2008
Colombia	30 March 2007	10 May 2011
Comoros	26 September 2007	
Congo	30 March 2007	
Cook Islands		8 May 2009*
Costa Rica	30 March 2007	1 October 2008
Côte d'Ivoire	7 June 2007	
Croatia	30 March 2007	15 August 2007
Cuba	26 April 2007	6 September 2007
Cyprus	30 March 2007	27 June 2011
Czech Republic	30 March 2007	28 September 2009
Denmark	30 March 2007	24 July 2009
Djibouti		18 June 2012*
Dominica	30 March 2007	
Dominican Republic	30 March 2007	18 August 2009
Ecuador	30 March 2007	3 April 2008
Egypt	4 April 2007	14 April 2008
El Salvador	30 March 2007	14 December 2007
Estonia	25 September 2007	30 May 2012
Ethiopia	30 March 2007	7 July 2010
European Union	30 March 2007	23 December 2010
Fiji	2 June 2010	
Finland	30 March 2007	
France	30 March 2007	18 February 2010

Participant	*Signature*	*Ratification or accession*
Gabon	30 March 2007	1 October 2007
Georgia	10 July 2009	
Germany	30 March 2007	24 February 2009
Ghana	30 March 2007	31 July 2012
Greece	30 March 2007	31 May 2012
Grenada	12 July 2010	
Guatemala	30 March 2007	7 April 2009
Guinea	16 May 2007	8 February 2008
Guyana	11 April 2007	
Haiti		23 July 2009*
Honduras	30 March 2007	14 April 2008
Hungary	30 March 2007	20 July 2007
Iceland	30 March 2007	
India	30 March 2007	1 October 2007
Indonesia	30 March 2007	30 November 2011
Iran (Islamic Republic of)		23 October 2009*
Ireland	30 March 2007	
Israel	30 March 2007	
Italy	30 March 2007	15 May 2009
Jamaica	30 March 2007	30 March 2007
Japan	28 September 2007	
Jordan	30 March 2007	31 March 2008
Kazakhstan	11 December 2008	
Kenya	30 March 2007	19 May 2008
Kyrgyzstan	21 September 2011	
Lao People's Democratic Republic	15 January 2008	25 September 2009
Latvia	18 July 2008	1 March 2010
Lebanon	14 June 2007	
Lesotho		2 December 2008*

Participant	*Signature*	*Ratification or accession*
Liberia	30 March 2007	26 July 2012
Libya	1 May 2008	
Lithuania	30 March 2007	18 August 2010
Luxembourg	30 March 2007	26 September 2011
Madagascar	25 September 2007	
Malawi	27 September 2007	27 August 2009
Malaysia	8 April 2008	19 July 2010
Maldives	2 October 2007	5 April 2010
Mali	15 May 2007	7 April 2008
Malta	30 March 2007	
Mauritania		3 April 2012*
Mauritius	25 September 2007	8 January 2010
Mexico	30 March 2007	17 December 2007
Micronesia (Federated States of)	23 September 2011	
Monaco	23 September 2009	
Mongolia		13 May 2009*
Montenegro	27 September 2007	2 November 2009
Morocco	30 March 2007	8 April 2009
Mozambique	30 March 2007	30 January 2012
Myanmar		7 December 2011*
Namibia	25 April 2007	4 December 2007
Nauru		27 June 2012*
Nepal	3 January 2008	7 May 2010
Netherlands	30 March 2007	
New Zealand	30 March 2007	25 September 2008
Nicaragua	30 March 2007	7 December 2007
Niger	30 March 2007	24 June 2008
Nigeria	30 March 2007	24 September 2010
Norway	30 March 2007	

Participant	*Signature*	*Ratification or accession*
Oman	17 March 2008	6 January 2009
Pakistan	25 September 2008	5 July 2011
Palau	20 September 2011	
Panama	30 March 2007	7 August 2007
Papua New Guinea	2 June 2011	
Paraguay	30 March 2007	3 September 2008
Peru	30 March 2007	30 January 2008
Philippines	25 September 2007	15 April 2008
Poland	30 March 2007	
Portugal	30 March 2007	23 September 2009
Qatar	9 July 2007	13 May 2008
Republic of Korea	30 March 2007	11 December 2008
Republic of Moldova	30 March 2007	21 September 2010
Romania	26 September 2007	31 January 2011
Russian Federation	24 September 2008	
Rwanda		15 December 2008*
Saint Lucia	22 September 2011	
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines		29 October 2010*
San Marino	30 March 2007	22 February 2008
Saudi Arabia		24 June 2008*
Senegal	25 April 2007	7 September 2010
Serbia	17 December 2007	31 July 2009
Seychelles	30 March 2007	2 October 2009
Sierra Leone	30 March 2007	4 October 2010
Slovakia	26 September 2007	26 May 2010
Slovenia	30 March 2007	24 April 2008
Solomon Islands	23 September 2008	
South Africa	30 March 2007	30 November 2007
Spain	30 March 2007	3 December 2007

Participant	*Signature*	*Ratification or accession*
Sri Lanka	30 March 2007	
Sudan	30 March 2007	24 April 2009
Suriname	30 March 2007	
Swaziland	25 September 2007	
Sweden	30 March 2007	15 December 2008
Syrian Arab Republic	30 March 2007	10 July 2009
Thailand	30 March 2007	29 July 2008
The former Yugoslav Republic Macedonia	30 March 2007	29 December 2011
Togo	23 September 2008	1 March 2011
Tonga	15 November 2007	
Trinidad and Tobago	27 September 2007	
Tunisia	30 March 2007	2 April 2008
Turkey	30 March 2007	28 September 2009
Turkmenistan		4 September 2008*
Uganda	30 March 2007	25 September 2008
Ukraine	24 September 2008	4 February 2010
United Arab Emirates	8 February 2008	19 March 2010
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	30 March 2007	8 June 2009
United Republic of Tanzania	30 March 2007	10 November 2009
United States of America	30 July 2009	
Uruguay	3 April 2007	11 February 2009
Uzbekistan	27 February 2009	
Vanuatu	17 May 2007	23 October 2008
Viet Nam	22 October 2007	
Yemen	30 March 2007	26 March 2009
Zambia	9 May 2008	1 February 2010

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Participant	*Signature*	*Ratification or accession*
Algeria	30 March 2007	
Andorra	27 April 2007	
Antigua and Barbuda	30 March 2007	
Argentina	30 March 2007	2 September 2008
Armenia	30 March 2007	
Australia		21 August 2009*
Austria	30 March 2007	26 September 2008
Azerbaijan	9 January 2008	28 January 2009
Bangladesh		12 May 2008*
Belgium	30 March 2007	2 July 2009
Benin	8 February 2008	5 July 2012
Bolivia	13 August 2007	16 November 2009
Bosnia and Herzegovina	29 July 2009	12 March 2010
Brazil	30 March 2007	1 August 2008
Bulgaria	18 December 2008	
Burkina Faso	23 May 2007	23 July 2009
Burundi	26 April 2007	
Cambodia	1 October 2007	
Cameroon	1 October 2008	
Central African Republic	9 May 2007	
Chile	30 March 2007	29 July 2008
Congo	30 March 2007	
Cook Islands		8 May 2009*
Costa Rica	30 March 2007	1 October 2008
Côte d'Ivoire	7 June 2007	
Croatia	30 March 2007	15 August 2007
Cyprus	30 March 2007	27 June 2011

Participant	*Signature*	*Ratification or accession*
Czech Republic	30 March 2007	
Djibouti		18 June 2012*
Dominican Republic	30 March 2007	18 August 2009
Ecuador	30 March 2007	3 April 2008
El Salvador	30 March 2007	14 December 2007
Estonia		30 May 2012*
Fiji	2 June 2010	
Finland	30 March 2007	
France	23 September 2008	18 February 2010
Gabon	25 September 2007	
Georgia	10 July 2009	
Germany	30 March 2007	24 February 2009
Ghana	30 March 2007	31 July 2012
Greece	27 September 2010	31 May 2012
Guatemala	30 March 2007	7 April 2009
Guinea	31 August 2007	8 February 2008
Haiti		23 July 2009*
Honduras	23 August 2007	16 August 2010
Hungary	30 March 2007	20 July 2007
Iceland	30 March 2007	
Italy	30 March 2007	15 May 2009
Jamaica	30 March 2007	
Jordan	30 March 2007	
Kazakhstan	11 December 2008	
Latvia	22 January 2010	31 August 2010
Lebanon	14 June 2007	
Liberia	30 March 2007	
Lithuania	30 March 2007	18 August 2010
Luxembourg	30 March 2007	26 September 2011

Participant	*Signature*	*Ratification or accession*
Madagascar	25 September 2007	
Mali	15 May 2007	7 April 2008
Malta	30 March 2007	
Mauritania		3 April 2012*
Mauritius	25 September 2007	
Mexico	30 March 2007	17 December 2007
Mongolia		13 May 2009*
Montenegro	27 September 2007	2 November 2009
Morocco		8 April 2009*
Mozambique		30 January 2012*
Namibia	25 April 2007	4 December 2007
Nepal	3 January 2008	7 May 2010
Nicaragua	21 October 2008	2 February 2010
Niger	2 August 2007	24 June 2008
Nigeria	30 March 2007	24 September 2010
Panama	30 March 2007	7 August 2007
Paraguay	30 March 2007	3 September 2008
Peru	30 March 2007	30 January 2008
Portugal	30 March 2007	23 September 2009
Qatar	9 July 2007	
Romania	25 September 2008	
Rwanda		15 December 2008*
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines		29 October 2010*
San Marino	30 March 2007	22 February 2008
Saudi Arabia		24 June 2008*
Senegal	25 April 2007	
Serbia	17 December 2007	31 July 2009
Seychelles	30 March 2007	
Sierra Leone	30 March 2007	

Participant	*Signature*	*Ratification or accession*
Slovakia	26 September 2007	26 May 2010
Slovenia	30 March 2007	24 April 2008
Solomon Islands	24 September 2009	
South Africa	30 March 2007	30 November 2007
Spain	30 March 2007	3 December 2007
Sudan		24 April 2009*
Swaziland	25 September 2007	
Sweden	30 March 2007	15 December 2008
Syrian Arab Republic		10 July 2009*
The former Yugoslav Republic Macedonia	29 July 2009	29 December 2011
Togo	23 September 2008	1 March 2011
Tunisia	30 March 2007	2 April 2008
Turkey	28 September 2009	
Turkmenistan		10 November 2010*
Uganda	30 March 2007	25 September 2008
Ukraine	24 September 2008	4 February 2010
United Arab Emirates	12 February 2008	
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	26 February 2009	7 August 2009
United Republic of Tanzania	29 September 2008	10 November 2009
Uruguay		28 October 2011*
Yemen	11 April 2007	26 March 2009
Zambia	29 September 2008	

* Accession.